

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17636 01 OF 02 021929Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----055664 021936Z /53

P 021920Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2539

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17636

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: AORG, PINR, PORG, OVIP, UNESCO
(M'BOW, AMADOU-MAHTAR)
SUBJECT: UNESCO: VISIT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW
TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 136977

1. PERMDEL IS GETTING CALLS FROM SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ASKING FOR HELP IN PREPARING BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR A VISIT BY M'BOW TO WASHINGTON. ONE OFFICIAL (KRILL DE CAPELLO) SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT M'BOW HAD RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND THAT THE INTENSITY OF PREPARATIONS AT THIS END REFLECT THE FACT THAT UNESCO CONSIDERS THIS A "STATE VISIT."

2. ON THE OCCASION OF M'BOW'S TWO PREVIOUS VISITS TO WASHINGTON AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL, HE WAS ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES ON UNESCO BUSINESS, AND THE WASHINGTON
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PAGE 02 PARIS 17636 01 OF 02 021929Z

VISIT WAS MERELY AN ADD-ON. THE INVITATIONS FOR THESE VISITS WERE EXTENDED ORALLY THROUGH HIS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL NAJMAN.

3. PERMDEL IS AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF M'BOW'S VISITING WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD JULY 4-8, BUT IS UNAWARE THAT ANY FORMAL, U.S.

GOVERNMENT INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO HIM.
(PARA L, REFTTEL)

4. IF A HIGH-LEVEL "STATE VISIT" IS NOT CONTEMPLATED, WE SHOULD START PASSING THE WORD THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. M'BOW'S NEXT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, WHENEVER IT MAY TAKE PLACE, COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON US-UNESCO RELATIONS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT HE NOT BE LED TO BELIEVE HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND THEN BE DISAPPOINTED. ALTHOUGH WE GET MIXED REPORTS ON THE MATTER, PERMDEL BELIEVES THAT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FULL AND PROMPT PAYMENT OF OUR DUES, A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IS THE THING THAT M'BOW MOST WANTS FROM THE U.S. IF HE GETS IT, EVEN JUST A FIVE MINUTE "PRESS THE FLESH" CALL, WE THINK THAT A GREAT MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS WITH UNESCO WOULD BECOME EASIER TO SOLVE. IF, IN THIS OR ANY OTHER RESPECT, HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO HIM, HIS CHAGRIN AND PIQUE COULD MAKE HIM UNRESPONSIVE TO OUR INTERESTS. M'BOW PLACES GREAT VALUE ON PROTOCOL, FORMAL SIGNS OF RESPECT, AND THE RED CARPET.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17636 02 OF 02 021932Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2540

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 17636

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5. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT M'BOW NOT BE UNDER AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF THE LEVEL OF TREATMENT HE WILL RECEIVE IN WASHINGTON. WE REITERATE, IF HE IS NOT GOING TO GET "STATE VISIT" TREATMENT, WE SHOULD START PASSING THE WORD TO HIM THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS ASAP IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT. WE CANNOT SAY THAT

HE WILL REFUSE TO COME TO WASHINGTON IF HE DOES NOT GET TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, BUT WE DO NOT WANT HIM TO EXPECT ONE AND THEN FIND OUT ON ARRIVAL THAT HE IS NOT GETTING IT. WE WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE HE CALLED ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE LAST TIME HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD RESENT NOT BEING RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY NEXT TIME. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD WANT TO EXPLAIN CAREFULLY WHOM HE IS GOING TO SEE, AND WHY HE IS BEING RECEIVED AT ANY GIVEN LEVEL.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON:

A. THE EXACT STATUS OF M'BOW'S INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON,

B. ANY ACTION, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, THAT PERMDEL SHOULD TAKE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVITATION.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 17636 02 OF 02 021932Z

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